

# The Consul's Dilemma

By Harold Ballagh

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"I can tell you a better story than that."

"Go ahead."

"A cousin of mine—forty-second degree, all they count in the south—was rather deaf. This man—I'll call him Allitson—was our Consul-General in Yokohama. One hot morning two big Danes, American citizens, appeared at the consulate. A Japanese woman, clattering unmusically along on her zlogs, walked between them.

"Do you take the job to marry a man?" asked one of the big fellows.

"Well, hardly," said the Marshall, who met him. "but I'll speak to the Consul."

"What d'you say?" asked Bill Allitson, drawing his brows together and turning his good ear towards the Marshall. "Oh, exactly; they want to get married, do they? Well, get their names and show 'em into the office. Now, boys, just stop your grinning."

"Jim Bates and I pulled as solemn faces as we could and stood up behind the Consul.

"The wedding party, very shame-faced, came rolling in. Evidently they were seafaring gentlemen. The woman had a wholesome, honest look, but was no beauty in my eyes.

"You are citizens of the United States?" questioned the Consul.

"Ja, just so," nodded the men.

"They lined up in front of Allitson, the woman still in the middle.

"The Consul took up a dog-eared Prayer-Book, kept for the purpose, and turned to the marriage service. The

nant glance, and solemnly went over the ceremony with the right parties, who were none the wiser.

"After they had registered and each received a marriage certificate with a huge United States seal on it, they departed, shuffling down the wide walk.

"Allitson was one of the leading lawyers of his state.

"As well as we were able for roaring with laughter, we put these questions to him:

"Your Honor," said I, "we claim that this is a case of bigamy, as two men have been married to this woman, and no divorce—"

"Your Honor," said Bates, "acting for the defendant, we would claim that my client has not been guilty of bigamy. We admit that my client has had two men married to her this day, but she has been married to only one man."

"Allitson stopped grinning, put on his most judicial look, and said in his inimitable, ex-cathedra manner:

"The court decides that the American Consul-General at Yokohama has been guilty of suborning—of bigamy in causing an innocent woman to be wholly married to one man and half married to another, and he is hereby fined—boy, bring the champagne!"

## QUEER VIEWS OF STAGE LIFE

Good Story Illustrating the Commercialism of American Playhouses.

Office-boy insolence is one of the reasons why the stage isn't as pleasant a pursuit as it used to be, according to the experienced actors, the New York correspondent of the Cincinnati Times-Star says. "Nowadays," they say, "the theater is so thoroughly commercialized that its chief figures in management act and think precisely as they would if they were managing sweatshops. And the art of acting is itself in decline. One of the reasons is the insistence of the modern manager upon the employment of 'types.' Actors and actresses must physically fit the needs of the roles for which they are cast, instead of making themselves over to fit them, as in the old days."

However that may be, queer little stories turn up every now and then. The other day a young woman, in whose veins the very proudest blood of Kentucky and Virginia runs, applied to a little, half-portion manager for a place she knew he had vacant. He gave one careless glance at her and shook his head.

"You won't do," said he. "I want a regular aristocrat for that there job." He doesn't know yet why the girl sat down in a sacred chair in his holy office and laughed helplessly until she finally went out, her eyes streaming tears of pure delight. Nor does he quite get the point of the jest of the girl that succeeded her, and whom he engaged for the "aristocratic" role. In the first rehearsal the little bandy-legged manager interfered. He scowled at the young woman and criticized her acting severely.

"You won't do," said he. "I want a regular aristocrat for that there job."

And he strutted across the stage in what he believed to be an "aristocratic" walk. The girl gazed at him, with all her innocent young soul in her eyes. When he finished his parade he turned to her.

"Oh, yes," said she, brightly, "now I understand. See, I will walk just as you do."

She slumped across the stage in a flat-footed, duck-legged, pigeon-toed shambling.

"Now," she said, turning to the manager, "didn't I walk just as you think an aristocrat should?" He just barked at her.

"You are vired vor viagrantly misconducting yourself," said he.

## LONGEST TELEGRAPH CIRCUIT

Is 4,000 Miles Long, Extending from London to Teheran, in Persia.

Persia and its capital, Teheran, have been very much before the public lately, but probably few people are aware that the news which has come through to London has passed over the longest telegraphic circuit in the world, says the London Daily News.

The distance between London and Teheran by wire is 4,000 miles and the operator in Teheran communicates direct with the operator at the London end, automatic repeaters taking the place of operators at ten places along the circuit.

The first repeating station from London is at Lowestoft where the wires enter the North sea, beneath which they run for 200 miles to Emden, Hanover, where the second automatic repeater continues the message.

Thence it is flashed to Berlin, Warsaw, Rangoon, Odessa, Kertch, Sukhum, Kaleh, Tiflis and Tauris, from each of which stations it is instantaneously forwarded without human intervention, the telegraphist at Teheran, who receives the message from Tauris, being the first operator to handle it since it left London. From Teheran the line then extends to India, but nowhere else is there a circuit so long as that between Teheran and London.

# FRUIT TREES PRUNED JUDICIOUSLY ALL YEAR

Good Working Implements Are the First Essential—Begin Work on the Ground and Continue on Up to the Top.



How to Prune Fruit Trees.

Fruit trees may judiciously be pruned the whole year around, but the time when the work can be most easily done commences with the dropping of the leaves in the fall and ends with the appearance of the new growth in spring, writes Gerhard Koligs in Garden Magazine. Tools for pruning season—pruning scissors, pruning saw, knife, and, for tall trees, the long-handled pruning hook—must be kept sharp and the scissors and hook also lubricated. Besides these tools it is desirable to have a three-legged stepladder, which is especially constructed for orchard use.

Before starting to prune, consider what you are going to do. Take a good look at the tree about to be pruned and make your plans. The actual work commences on the ground. Water shoots springing from the ground should not be cut off merely on the level with the ground's surface—dig down to the origin of them and cut close to the root or stem, or wherever they may spring from. This done, remove or mend all broken branches. Always aim to close up empty spaces caused by broken limbs. You may do this by bending and tying certain limbs, or by encouraging the growth of neighboring branches.

Walk around the tree and shorten last year's growth on the lower branches about one-third, always aiming toward giving a circular shape to the whole tree. Take the step ladder and again go around the tree, trimming last year's growth higher up but somewhat shorter than on the lower branches. So continue to the top of the tree, going around it several times until, when finished, the tree presents an almost globular shape, the top branches being shortened to less than a quarter of their previous year's growth. Never attempt to save time by pruning the entire height of the tree on one side; if you do this you will certainly give the tree an ugly shape. The higher you go, the oftener will it be necessary to cut out of two or three branchlets, one or even two. In this case cut out the weaker ones or those growing to the inside of the tree, provided they are not necessary to fill empty spaces.

This is the pruning of an orchard tree, which has been attended to regularly every year. It is more difficult to prune a tree which has been neglected for two or more years, and it is very difficult to bring an unshapely tree to a presentable appearance. Trees allowed to grow ad libitum for two or more years will sometimes need heavy cutting back. The more straggling and irregular the growth and the more slender and numerous the branches, the more heavily the tree has to be pruned.

On stone fruit trees it is not advisable to cut back to the old wood and this should never be done except in the case of a broken limb. If such is the case, be sure the wound is closed with paint, wax or tar. On apples or pears you may, without injury to the tree (provided it is attended to regularly afterward), cut off the growth of several seasons, but always see that you cut above dormant buds. Dormant buds, situated at the base of each year's growth, are often hardly noticeable. Above them fruit buds may have formed very conspicuously. It seems a pity to cut them away, but what good would they do? They will only produce small fruit, or, by the amount of the fruit produced, will break the branches which are too weak to support the weight.

Confronted with a tree out of shape or of too thick a growth, remove first the branches growing to the inside and even to the opposite side of the tree, unless by removing them you cause an open space. But such a branch, having been allowed to grow from one side of a tree to the other, and which could not be dispensed with this year, ought to be treated in a way to allow its removal in a succeeding year; that is, the branches must be trimmed in order to allow the growth of the neighboring branches to close in and gradually fill the space now taken up by this perverse one.

Then the tree may still have too many branches. In removing them, avoid cutting entire branches originating directly from the trunk, which would make large wounds. By not healing over quickly these wounds would eventually make holes in the trunk. Of course such branches ought to have come off while the tree was young, but now it is too late. Be satisfied, therefore, with thinning out the smaller branches, taking care that air and light can sufficiently penetrate to all parts of the tree and that fruit bud development is encouraged on parts which, in the coming summer and fall, will be able to support the weight of the fruit.

All this having been done, it will nevertheless be important to pick over the fruit after it has fairly well formed. Break out all the small and unsightly fruit; it is certainly more profitable, be it from the commercial standpoint or simply for home use, to have one big, juicy, well-formed, well-colored and well-ripened apple than four or five small, unsightly and unsavory ones.

## POISON SPRAYS BENEFIT APPLES

Those Who Use Arsenate of Lead Use Too Much at a Time and Usually Spray Too Often.

It is very desirable to grow apples free from worms. The codling moth is the insect that lays the eggs in the blossoms from which the worms are hatched. Arsenical poison sprayed on the blossoms is eaten by the young codling moth worms and they die before doing any damage.

A great many fruit growers do not spray at all for the codling moth. It has been found, however, by experience that those who do spray with arsenate of lead use too strong a solution, apply too much at a time and usually spray too often. Four pounds of arsenate of lead to 100 gallons of water make an amply strong solution. A greater proportion of the poison is an actual detriment and waste.

The apple tree does not have to be soaked with the poison mixture to kill the larvae of the moth. The minute drops of the liquid on the calyx of each blossom will effectually do the work. The fineness of the spray is no more important than the quantity used. Each blossom should receive a little. Some in spraying apply so much of the liquid that it runs down the branches and trunks to the roots of the trees, where it does injury.

In most cases two or three pounds of arsenate of lead to 100 gallons of water makes a solution strong enough to destroy all of the worms if applied in the right way. Two sprayings at the right time are sufficient, and a saving of material and labor. The general notion that arsenical poison on the trunk and branches of trees is beneficial is a mistake. On the other hand, they do positive injury, and many trees thus treated die from poisoning.

## Don't Let Soil Crust.

Do not let the soil form a crust. It is at such times that the evaporation of the moisture is very rapid. Run the cultivator through the corn to prevent this condition, and the oftener it is cultivated the better the crop will do. Such cultivation puts a fine dust mulch upon the surface which effectually prevents evaporation except at a very slow rate. Anyone that has examined a well-cultivated field has been struck by the dryness of the surface, and only a few inches below it was almost wet enough to make mud balls. After every rain it is necessary to break up the crust that forms. In this way moisture enough may be accumulated to tide over the period when it is needed most. A little shower often does considerable damage by destroying the dust mulch, and it should be restored as soon as possible.

# For the Hostess

Chat on Topics of Many Kinds, by a Recognized Authority

**An Autumn Leaf Party.**  
An exceedingly novel party has just been brought to my notice and will soon be in season now. In the country, where leaves remain much longer on the trees than in the city, a hostess noted for her original ideas, conceived the idea of turning the clearing of her large lawn of the autumn leaves into a frolic.

Over the telephone invitations went out to six congenial couples, all good friends, to come the following Saturday attired in warm clothes, with heavy gloves. Partners were chosen by rakes tied with ribbons, two of each color. Then work began. After each couple had a big pile the hostess asked that a specimen of each variety of leaf be brought into the house. Then there was an impromptu contest to see who could name the most varieties. A picnic luncheon was served and great bonfires of the leaves were built after dark.

Afterwards all gathered round the fireplace, told stories, roasted apples and chestnuts and begged to be included in next year's "leaf party."

"Next" year is now this year, and I know several people who are planning to have just such jolly parties when the fall weather lays low the brilliant red and yellow leaves. The hostess had made dainty autumn leaf place cards, done in wood brown with gold lettering. By the way, this same hostess told me she was growing cunning little Norway pine trees in six-inch pots for Christmas gifts. Capital idea, don't you think?

**Early Morning Bird Party.**  
A hostess in a near-by suburb gave this party, which was novel and hugely enjoyed by those who participated. The hour was half after five in the morning, and the invitations contained a time table with the train marked that those who accepted must take. At the station they were met by a bus and conveyed to the house where coffee and rolls were served on the porch. Then an hour was spent in the woods adjacent to the grounds where the birds congregate for their early matins.

The hostess had a book describing birds, their habits and their notes, which was used as reference. A prize was awarded to the person who knew the names of the most birds, one to the person who discovered the greatest variety and one to the guest who counted the most nests. An hour was spent in this way and then all returned to the house, where a perfectly delicious breakfast was served, beginning with fruit and ending with waffles and maple syrup.

## To Find Partners.

At a card party the hostess passed English walnuts which proved to be candy boxes containing the tiniest of bonbons in many colors. There were two of each color and partners were found by matching the candies in their nuts and then they had them to eat afterward. There were just seven tables and all the rainbow dints were represented, the chairs at the tables were tied with a huge bow of tulle of one of the seven colors. The effect was very pretty and added to the gaiety, for every one loves color when used to good advantage.

## An Apron Shower.

Quite the jolliest and most practical shower that has come to my notice lately is an apron "shower." A friend of the bride-elect planned it all for an afternoon affair; each guest was invited to bring an apron, large or small, fancy or plain, so the result was that there were 24 fine specimens. The hostess first tied one on the honored guest just before the chafing dishes were brought in; then one by one each guest tied or planned on her offering until the bewildered little bride-to-be was literally enveloped from head to foot in aprons. They made fudge, then cocoa and wafers were passed.

## "The Home."

This wonderful bit by the late Edward Everett Hale I want to put in our department, as its sentiment carries out the idea I wish every home-

maker would adopt and endeavor to carry out in her own immediate home circle:

"Home and home life must never become commonplace. The little surprises, the remembrance of the birthday, the unexpected treat, the pleasure earned for one by the sacrifice of another—all these bring order in the head of spiritual exercises. Nor in there any scene of our life which so demands such exercise as this familiar scene of home, which has to be reset every day."

MADAME MURIEL  
(Copyright, 1908.)

## POINTS ON AUTUMN MILLINERY

Some Features That Are Distinctly New Will Mark the Headgear of the Coming Season.

Chenille is very prominent and shown in exquisite colors of velvet softness. Often it is interwoven with silk braid, forming crown plateaux and trimming bands, and in this instance offers splendid possibilities for novel color blends.

A remarkable feature of the autumn models is that the pronounced and distinctive outlines which prevailed in a great many of the midsummer hats had to yield the palm to unusually soft, undecided ones. This is due to the fact that there are very few blocked shapes employed for the truly exclusive chapeaux, those that are softly draped with rich, supple material being in the lead.

Calla lilies of velvet are shown and represent the latest fashion in the new floral offerings. They are equally lovely when in fancy tones—black, dull blue, purple or rose—as in their natural pale, creamy white, and in every case their chalice is filled with the subtly curved, deep yellow rod of stamens, which is the characteristic part of this flower. Tulips are very good, and so are large petaled, clustered anemones of lustrous heavy satin or soft velvet, especially so when accompanied by velvet foliage in natural hues.—Vogue.

# IN VOGUE

Folds and flitches over the shoulders are quite a feature of evening gowns.

Except for an occasional scant flounce, all trimming is put on in lengthwise form.

Figured as well as striped hosiery are seen in the shops in all the newest colorings.

Shirring over cords and in tiny puffs will be seen more and more as the season advances.

The scarf which matches the gown is becoming one of the familiar features for the light wrap.

The winter promises to be a season of extra long, narrow coats over plain, striped or checked gowns.

A gay Beau Brummel frill at the throat transforms the tailored suit into something dainty and feminine.

Black embroidery upon brown is smart when the brown is not too dark to afford a contrast with the black.

Hats of dark material, lined with something lighter in color, are among the dressy types of midsummer wear.

The coarser weaves of tussore, which have the preference just now, look at a distance like a piece of rough canvas.

Sleeveless coats with a color contrasting with the gown under them are in growing favor as the season advances.

Among the popular fabrics are the new two-tone changeable satins, the face being of one color and the back of another.

One of the oddities of the season is the introduction of the metallic and spangle effects among the cottons and linens.

Glace kid gloves are imperative for full dress, except in very hot weather, and may be worn with almost any costume. Glace kid is expensive, but it wears and cleans well.

# Sachet Covering



There is something particularly attractive about the idea of dainty sachets as a covering for glove and handkerchief, and we give, in the accompanying sketch, an idea that will be found of value.